

gradation in such rural areas are being supported through GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project and Capacity Building for Service Providers scheme of the Ministry. The promotion of rural tourism can lead to increased tourists arrivals to rural sites and in the process can strengthen rural livelihood including benefits to the youths, through income from visitor handling services apart from income through art and craft activities. The list of such projects taken up during 10th five year plan is annexed as Statement. [Refer to the statement appended to the answer to unstarred Question 685(a)]

Improvement of Tourism Infrastructure

692. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved removing ceilings on project cost for tourism infrastructure development in order to improve tourism infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of identified circuits and destinations for which this ceiling has been removed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The guidelines of the scheme for Central financial assistance to States/UTs for Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits have been revised. The existing upper limit of Rs. 8.00 crore has been enhanced to Rs. 50 crore for development of identified major tourist circuits and that of Rs. 5.00 crore has been enhanced to Rs. 25.00 crore for development of identified major tourist destinations to ensure the overall development of tourism infrastructure to world standard in consultation with the concerned State/UT Government. This revision is only for major circuits and destinations while the other circuits and destinations are still eligible for assistance limited to Rs. 8 crore and Rs. 5 crore respectively.

Promotion of Tourism in Sikkim

693. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate any special scheme to promote tourism in the country particularly in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of funds allocated by Government for promotion and development of tourism in the various States of the country during the year 2006-07, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, Ministry of Tourism extends Central financial Assistance to the State Governments/UTs for the project proposals prioritized in consultation with them under the scheme 'Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits'. The project prioritized for the State Government of Sikkim to promote tourism are given in Statement-I. (See below)

(c) A statement-II showing the State-wise details of funds sanctioned and released during the year 2006-07 is annexed.

Statement-I

Prioritised Project to be implemented during the year 2006-07

Sl. No.	State	Destination	Circuit	Rural Tourism
1.	Sikkim	1. Development of Amusement Park at Sarmsa.	1. Development of Tourist Centres at Phodang and Mangan in North Sikkim	1. Rong Village in South Sikkim.
		2. Pilgrim centre at Sorang	2. Development of Assam Lingzey and Khedi Trek Route in East Sikkim	2. Tharpu village in West Sikkim

Statement-II**State-wise Tourism Projects sanctioned during the year 2006-07 of Tenth Five Year Plan**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2006-07		
		No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	468.63	337.90
2.	Assam	1	454.28	363.42
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	760.90	608.73
4.	Bihar	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	7	876.38	701.10
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	5	347.73	278.18
8.	Haryana	3	25.00	20.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	285.00	228.00
10.	J&K	13	2826.32	1828.00
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	1	226.88	204.20
13.	Kerala	5	416.39	333.11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3	903.10	722.40
15.	Maharashtra	7	580.38	465.28
16.	Manipur	5	788.29	526.64
17.	Meghalaya	2	15.00	12.00
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	5	468.94	375.17
20.	Orissa	8	477.12	381.70
21.	Punjab	5	814.45	651.56
22.	Rajasthan	8	653.39	522.70
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	6	625.63	503.26
25.	Tripura	1	4.15	3.32
26.	Uttaranchal	6	528.99	428.19

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Uttar Pradesh	5	2441.90	1953.52
28.	West Bengal	4	952.36	757.38
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
32.	Delhi	3	20.00	17.00
33.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
TOTAL:		112	15961.21	12222.76

Note: This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating Projects, Rural Tourism (Software and Hardware) Projects, IT, Event, Fair & Festivals Projects.

Pending Tourism Projects of Assam

†694. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending tourism projects with Centre from the State Government of Assam;

(b) since when these projects are pending and the reasons for their non approval; and

(c) the effective steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and Promotion of Tourism is the responsibility of the respective State Govt. However Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India provides financial assistance for tourism related projects which are identified/prioritized in consultation with the State Govt. on a year to year basis. A list of projects sanctioned for the Govt. of Assam during the Xth plan is annexed as Statement. (See below).

Projects which are identified for development which are required to be submitted by the State Govt. in the prescribed format alongwith all relevant information/documents.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.